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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/627,031	07/25/2003	Gopala Pillai	KMI010USU	3706

45180 7590 05/12/2005
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EXAMINER

ABDELWAHED, ALI F

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3722

DATE MAILED: 05/12/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/627,031

Applicant(s)

PILLAI ET AL.

Examiner

Ali Abdelwahed

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 March 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 13-17 and 19 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11, 13-17 and 19 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 19 are objected to because of the following informalities:

It is suggested that in:

Claim 1, line 15, delete "surface meets" and insert –surfaces meet--.

Claim 2, line 4, delete "appendage" and insert –appendages--.

Claim 10, line 3, delete "appendage" and insert –appendages--.

Claim 10, line 4, delete "surface" and insert –surfaces--.

Claim 11, line 3, delete "is" and insert –are--.

Claim 15, line 5, before "...surface of said body..." insert –outer--.

Claim 15, line 12, before "...end thereof..." delete "the" and insert –an--.

Claim 15, line 15, delete "surface meets" and insert –surfaces meet--.

Claim 15, line 20, delete "appendage" and insert –appendages--.

Claim 15, line 23, before "...rotational..." delete "the".

Claim 16, line 3, delete "appendage" and insert –appendages--.

Claim 16, line 4, delete "surface" and insert –surfaces--.

Claim 19, line 7, before "...surface..." delete "the" and insert –an outer--.

Claim 19, line 7, before "...upper..." delete "the" and insert –an--.

Claim 19, lines 18 and 19, delete "surface meets" and insert –surfaces meet--.

Claim 19, line 21, delete "respective".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-11, 13-17, and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,980,260 to Caputi in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,380,233 to Numoto.

Caputi discloses the claimed invention except for having an arcuate ridge, a means for limiting the rotational and linear movement of the appendage relative to the body comprised of a pair of complementary ribbed elements disposed on the planar surfaces, wherein one set of ribbed elements are comprised of beveled raised elements and the other set of ribbed elements are comprised of beveled recessed elements that engage each other when the appendage is attached to the body; the magnetic elements are disposed within the planar surfaces of the body and appendage; and wherein the ribs are approximately 0.75mm wide and 0.75mm deep and have a diameter of approximately 9.75mm.

However, Numoto teaches an attachment means for attaching appendages to a figure comprising an arcuate ridge (see fig. 5, defined by reference numeral 52), and that limit the rotational and linear movement of the appendage relative to the body, and is comprised of a pair of complementary ribbed elements (56), wherein one set of ribbed elements are comprised of beveled raised elements (57) and the other set of ribbed

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elements are comprised of beveled recessed elements (53) that engage each other when the appendage is attached to the body (see figs. 5, 6); magnetic elements (60, 63) that are disposed within the planar surfaces of the body and the elements configured to be attachable to the body (see figs. 5, 6).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the toy of Caputi, in view of Numoto, such that it would provide the toy of Caputi with the concept of the aforementioned limitations for the purpose of providing a stronger and more secure attachment structure for the appendages and body of the toy.

Additionally, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to modify the size of the ribs to be approximately 0.75mm wide and 0.75mm deep and have a diameter of approximately 9.75mm, since such a modification would have involved a mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Rose*, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955). Furthermore, there is no criticality for these limitations anywhere in the specification of the present invention (see pgs. 13 and 14, lines 24-26 and 1, respectively).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on 25 March 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

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Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references.

Furthermore, concerning the newly amended subject matter concerning "the arcuate ridge not completely encircling the planar surfaces of the body such that a lower portion of the planar surfaces meet the outer surface of the body", which was added to claims 1, 15, and 19 is taught by the Caputi reference (see fig.17, the arcuate outer ridge that surrounds the planar surface defined by reference # 40 does not completely encircle it, and meets the outer surface of the body at the bottom).

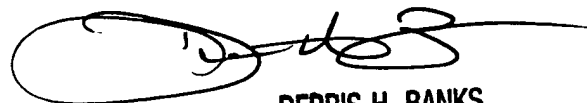
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ali Abdelwahed whose telephone number is (571) 272-4417. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 10:00 A.M. to 6:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on (571) 272-4419.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the examiner or the examiner's supervisor.

AA
05/03/2005



DERRIS H. BANKS
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